

Thomas Pinckney to Andrew Jackson, March 13, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

THOMAS PINCKNEY TO JACKSON.

Fort Hawkins, March 13, 1814.

Sir, I was prepared to send off the Express with the Letter herewith, when I had the honor of receiving your dispatch of the 6th Current: as you have therein furnished proof of the Misconduct of General Cock I have no hesitation in instructing you to have the Law put in execution against him: You will therefore please to have the affidvits of the witnesses taken and forwarded to the District Attorney of the United States in Tennessee, desiring him to take measures for bringing the offender to Justice, in order to prevent in future practices so detrimental to the Service of the United States. The 17th Section of the Act of Congress of 11th January 1812 intituled an Act to raise an additional military force, punishes the offence of inticing Soldiers in the Service of the United States to desert, by fine not exceeding \$300, and imprisonment not more than twelve months, but it may be submitted to the District Attorney how far the conduct of General Cocke may warrant his apprehension, for an offence of a more serious nature. How far the General may under present circumstances be within the reach of a General Court Martial for offences committed while in the service of the United States, shall be submitted for the opinion of the Judge Advocate of the 6th District. . . . 1

1 Before this letter was written Jackson wrote to Governor Blount demanding Cocke's arrest. To this demand the governor, on Mar. 20, 1814, sent the following reply: "*Dear sir*, I recd. yours of the 10th Instant inclosing a copy of Genl. Doherty's to you of the 6th, two days ago; and last night yours of the 7th inclosing the copy of Genl. Doherty's to you

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of the 2d. Instant came to hand. The contents of those letters created surprize, and they are highly important to the public interest. It becomes my duty, on application, to comply with your demand for the arrest of Major Genl. John Cocke, of which, when made, you will have notice, agreeably to your request, that you may be prepared to exhibit specifications in support of your charges accompanying the demand for his arrest.”